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New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 2nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. FLEMMING (Saint Lucia)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

1. The CHAIRMAN expressed appreciation for his election to the post of Chairman of the Fourth Committee and said that at the current session of the General Assembly seven States had become members of the United Nations, two from the ranks of the Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories. They all shared a common goal - the exercise of their right to self-determination and independence - and the desire to participate fully in the life of the international community. It was indeed time for the Organization to reaffirm its commitment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and, particularly, to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

2. With the independence of Namibia and its accession to full membership in the United Nations and the implementation of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, the Committee could focus its attention on the remaining Territories on the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories. The 18 remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories were predominantly located in the Caribbean and Pacific subregions and had a number of common problems peculiar to small island developing countries. New challenges were arising in considering the needs of that group of Territories and new strategies must be adopted. The debate that had begun on reforming the procedures and practices of the United Nations was to be commended. However, it must be emphasized that any reforms in that regard must recognize as paramount the interests and needs of the peoples of those Territories.

3. The global changes that had so swiftly altered the parameters of international relations had had an equally dramatic and positive impact on the nature of the Committee's deliberations. As the United Nations was reassessing its approach to the decolonization process, subregional and other international organizations were taking important initiatives concerning the problems and concerns of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The communiqués issued at the recent summit meetings of the Caribbean Community and the South Pacific Forum were evidence of that. The leaders of the Non-Self-Governing Territories themselves were meeting more often to approach certain problems collectively. Those developments were ushering in a new attitude towards decolonization. The Committee was standing at a vantage point, from which it could provide impetus to those achievements. Otherwise it would be condemned to irrelevance.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

4. Mr. AL-KINDY (United Arab Emirates), supported by Mr. SLABY (Czechoslovakia) nominated Mr. Beleyi (Togo) and Mr. Al-Baker (Qatar) for the offices of Vice-Chairmen.

5. Mr. Beleyi (Togo) and Mr. Al-Baker (Qatar) were elected Vice-Chairmen by acclamation.

6. Mr. ADOUKI (Congo) nominated Mr. Kember (New Zealand) for the office of Rapporteur.

7. Mr. Kember (New Zealand) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

8. Mr. ADOUKI (Congo), welcomed, as the Chairman of the Fourth Committee at the forty-fifth session, seven new States Members of the United Nations to the Committee and expressed confidence that the experience gained in the successful struggle by their peoples for self-determination would be valuable for the work of the Committee.

9. Recently, particularly after the accession of Namibia to independence, the work methods of United Nations bodies dealing with questions relating to decolonization had been subjected to increasingly sharp criticism. It had frequently been pointed out that measures based on old approaches were not in keeping with the real situation in the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories. That criticism related mainly to the language and structure of Committee resolutions. The Committee's consideration of questions which were the general concern of all the members of the Organization had also been described as inappropriate.

10. Taking into account the level of concern which that situation had begun to cause in terms of reaching consensus, he had suggested, having been the Chairman of the Committee at its previous session that informal consultations should be held on the matter. That idea had been enthusiastically supported and during the period from March to June 1991 four meetings of the Committee had been held within the framework of informal consultations and at each of them approximately one third of the members of the Organization had participated. It was gratifying that most of the administering Powers had taken part in those deliberations. The discussions had been frank and open and had focused mainly on improving methods of work and approaches to problem solving and also ensuring general cooperation with the administering Powers.

11. The results of those discussions had been reflected in an informal document entitled "Conclusions of the informal meetings of the Fourth Committee". The document indicated that the overwhelming majority of participants in the consultations were of the view that the language of Fourth Committee resolutions should reflect the positive trends prevailing in international relations, while highlighting as accurately as possible the

(Mr. Adouki, Congo)

realities and circumstances in the Territories. In particular, statements on the activities of foreign economic interests should also take into account those activities which undoubtedly contributed to the development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. At the same time, references to issues that were extraneous to questions relating to decolonization, regardless of their importance, should be excluded or reduced to a minimum. The same applied to the practice of selective name-calling.

12. Opinions were generally divided as to whether the Committee should consider the question of apartheid. With regard to cooperation with the administrating Powers, the delegations had unanimously supported establishing and strengthening cooperation between those Powers and the decolonization bodies. Both sides should make every effort to restore confidence and promote cooperation in order to ensure the progress and well-being of the peoples of the Territories concerned.

13. The need to resume the regular sending of visiting missions to Territories where they had not been sent for a period of time had also been unanimously underscored. It was proposed that the administering Powers should ensure the regular provision of information on the situation in the Territories under their administration and also participate in the work of the United Nations decolonization bodies.

14. The CHAIRMAN informed the members of the Committee that the agenda items allocated to the Fourth Committee were listed in document A/C.4/46/1 and drew their attention to document A/C.4/45/L.1, concerning the organization of work. The preliminary programme of work was set out in paragraph 3 of that document. He suggested that it should be adopted, on the understanding that it could be amended where necessary.

15. It was so decided.

16. The CHAIRMAN referring to paragraph 8 of document A/C.4/46/L.1 pointed out that at the previous session the Committee had lost the equivalent of some five meetings through the late starting and early adjournment of meetings. In order to minimize such loss of time, it was his intention to convene meetings promptly at the scheduled time and count on the full cooperation of all the members of the Committee in that regard. He also drew the members' attention to the note by the Secretary-General on control and limitation of documentation (A/INF/46/1).

AGENDA ITEM 100: ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC AND OTHER INTERESTS WHICH ARE IMPEDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES IN TERRITORIES UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION AND EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE COLONIALISM, APARTHEID AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (A/46/23, (Part III))

17. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should follow established practice and consider chapter V of the report of the Special Committee in conjunction with agenda item 100.

18. It was so decided.

19. Mr. SLABY (Czechoslovakia), Vice-Chairman of the Special Committee, introduced on behalf of the Rapporteur and in accordance with paragraph 18 of General Assembly resolution 45/18 the chapter of the report of that Committee concerning agenda item 100 (A/46/23, (Part III), chap. IV). The relevant draft resolution recommended by the Special Committee was set out in paragraph 12 of the chapter in question. He also introduced chapter V of the report of the Special Committee, entitled "Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration which might be impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples" (A/46/23, (Part III), chap. V). The draft decision on that question which the Special Committee recommended for adoption by the Fourth Committee was contained in paragraph 11 of chapter V.

REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS

20. The CHAIRMAN informed the Committee that two communications containing requests for hearings had been received. One related to New Caledonia (A/C.4/46/2), and the other to Western Sahara (A/C.4/46/3) under agenda item 19. In accordance with established practice, he suggested that they should be distributed as documents of the Committee and considered at a subsequent meeting. He had also received a letter dated 30 September 1991 from a representative of the Governor of the United States Virgin Islands containing a request to be granted the opportunity to appear before the Committee. In accordance with established practice, he would be heard during the Committee's consideration of agenda item 19.

21. It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.